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DRAYTON RURAL DISTRICT

Interim Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

on the

Health & Sanitary Circumstances for the Year

1945

Drayton Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Despite the cessation of hostilities no change has been made by the Ministry of Health and this Report is, therefore, again presented in an abbreviated interim form.

With the exception of Measles there has been a decline in the total number of Infectious Diseases notified. It is satisfactory to see that the one case of Diphtheria reported arose in an adult. During the period under review the Authority discontinued the use of the local isolation hospital and joined with their neighbours in sending cases to the larger institution at Shrewsbury.

Vital statistics show that the Birth Rate has been slightly lower than that of 1944 but is still above that generally prevailing. The Infantile Death Rate, while showing considerable rise, compares favourably with that of the country. The General Death Rate approximates very closely with that of England.

There has been little change in the total in the Tuberculosis Register and the Death Rate from this disease in all its forms is similar to that of 1944 and compares well with the rate for the country.

The sanitary circumstances of the Area are dealt with in the Sections of this Report. Attention in the year has been mainly directed to the provision of homes, but the Council are aware of the need for advancement in the ancillary services to houses—water services and sewage disposal.

The Medical Officer of Health takes this opportunity of thanking the Sanitary Inspector for his close collaboration in the working of the Health Department during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. A. M. STEWART,

8th August, 1946. M.B., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	53,000
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population ...	7,572
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books	2,030
Rateable Value	£42,041
Sum represented by one-penny rate	£178
Persons per acre (calculated on population)	.14

POPULATION. — The estimated population, as shown in the Return of the Registrar-General, is again lower than that of the previous year. This decrease, however, is small and when allowance has been made for the still present movement of population it may be that this fall, in the early future, will be checked.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	73	58	131
Illegitimate	14	8	22
Totals	87	66	153

Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population 20.2
Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population (England and Wales) 16.1

STILL BIRTHS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	2	—	2
Totals	3	1	4

Rate per 1000 total (Live and Still) Births 25.5

DEATHS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Total number of Deaths	42	46	88

Death Rate per 1000 of population 11.6
Death Rate per 1000 of population (England and Wales) 11.4

INFANTILE MORTALITY

All Infants per 1000 live births	39.2
All Infants per 1000 live births (England and Wales) ...	46
Legitimate Infants per 1000 live legitimate births	45.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 live illegitimate births	—
Total number of Infant Deaths—Legitimate	6
Ditto—Illegitimate	—
Total ...	6

Deaths from :—

Cancer (all ages)	6
Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Under this heading there were no deaths.

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

Tuberculosis (all forms)	3
Cancer	6
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	7
Heart Disease and Circulatory Disturbances	32
Respiratory Diseases	7
Nephritis	3
Premature Births and Congenital Malformations	7
Violence	3
Abdominal Diseases	8

SECTION B

General Provisions for Health Services in the District

AMBULANCE. — The District continues to be served by the ambulance jointly owned by this and the neighbouring Urban Authority. Good reports have been received of the work done and there have been few complaints. The County Authority continues to plan for a service to cover the larger administrative area and in which all Local Authorities able to assure a 24-hourly readiness to act on call and to function complementarily with their neighbours would be the basis.

MORTUARY. — There is no accommodation of this nature owned by the Council in the Area. Cases are housed at the Local Hospital or Poor Law Institution, as convenient. In the more distant parts selection is made according to circumstance.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

SCAVENGING.—The Authority has no organised service for collection but facilities for local tipping by private persons are available in certain parishes. Such disposal is supervised and controlled by the Sanitary Officer. The Council has this problem in mind but, as yet, no definite plans have been formulated.

SALVAGE.—This service is conducted under a dual scheme : in parishes the collection is centred round the local schools, while in certain areas collections are made and delivered to the central depôt by members of the Women's Voluntary Service. Quantities gathered in the more distant parts are brought to the Depôt in Market Drayton. This service is restricted and now comprises rags, bones and paper. It has been reported that, generally, there has been a considerable fall in the quantity gathered. It may be said that this is a small service, the outlay for which is little, and from the sales made the income covers the expenditure.

VERMIN INFESTATION. — The Sanitary Inspector reports that the Authority has a contract whereby the County Rat Officer deals with any infestations at the Hodnet Tipping Centre. Elsewhere, the Sanitary Officer supervises and controls. During the course of the year he has treated the sewers and outfalls in the Cheswardine Area to his satisfaction. Generally there have been few complaints of infestations brought to notice.

Meetings have been held at Shrewsbury at which instruction has been given on the modern methods of control and eradication of this pest and your Officer attended these.

No homes have required attention for bug infestation, neither have any clothes been brought for this purpose.

WATER SUPPLIES.—The District is dependent on a number of main sources for the supply of the more closely populated parishes and in the remainder of the area wells are the means of this service. The following are the principal parishes served :— Hodnet, Ightfield, Woore, Norton-in-Hales, Cheswardine and Marchamley.

The Cheswardine village supply is pumped by ram from springs. This supply is chlorinated. During the year a new bore, 162 feet deep, has been sunk—$12\frac{1}{8}$ inches diameter to 138 feet ; 138 to 162 feet, $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter.

The above has been subjected to two tests :—

3,600 gallons per hour for 48 hours.
5,000 gallons per hour for 45 hours.
Standing water level, 77 feet.
Pumping level, 81 feet.

This bore is privately owned and water from it is not yet available for use.

From Stoke Heath there have been many complaints of water shortage and to overcome this it is proposed to make an extension from an existing borehole owned by the Air Ministry to local householders. The distance involved in this extension will be about 1,200 yards.

Samples have been taken at regular intervals on, not only the main supplies, but also from wells which have been the subject of doubt and have required confirmation as to quality. The reports from these smaller sources have been very variable but in some cases these have been able to be improved.

A Water Survey has been prepared by your Sanitary Inspector and submitted to the County Council for approval. This survey provided for approximately 44 miles of water mains and additional bores at Hodnet and Ightfield pumping stations and new bores at Stoke Heath.

The Council have now appointed Major Waters, Consulting Engineer, to advise and submit estimated costs for the provision of a piped water supply for the whole District.

At Marchamley the local distribution is owned and controlled by the Authority (this is from a privately owned source). These supply pipes are inadequate in capacity to give a full service to the parish and new ones will, in all probability, be laid. In addition to this shortage, trouble has been experienced at the reservoir, where leakage caused a considerable loss. This has now been repaired. It is anticipated that Marchamley will ultimately be supplied from the Hodnet borehole.

The following is a table of the principal services to the Area :—

Parish	*Existing Mains*
Woore	5.64 Miles
Norton-in-Hales	1.34 ,,
Cheswardine	1.94 ,,
Hodnet	2.32 ,,
Ightfield and Moreton Say .	10.94 ,,
Total ...	22.18 Miles

SEWAGE AND SEWERAGE. — In the preceding section reference has been made to the availability of a piped water service and in the parishes so served a water-conveyed sewage system should accompany this. The only parish to satisfy this demand is Cheswardine, but there is under consideration a scheme to meet the needs of Hodnet and in this scheme will be incorporated provision for the new housing planned in that part. Following this, immediate thought should be given to claim of the hamlet of Sowdley.

On the water-carriage schemes no major breakdowns have been experienced during the twelve months.

In the remainder of the area where water closets have been installed, disposal is by means of septic tanks and soakaways, and where pail closets are in use other waste water from these homes is disposed of by surface drainage.

SECTION D

Housing

As no application had been made for temporary houses, the Authority has been able to concentrate on the permanent homes which will be required to meet some of the needs of the Parishes. Considerable discussions have taken place on the matter of siting and each District has had an opportunity to express its views on location and numbers required. Finally, it has been decided that the first instalment of new houses will total 72 and these are to be very evenly distributed over the whole District. Embodied in these new properties will be all modern conveniences except in the matter of water-closets, which, where there is an absence of main sewers, will have to be replaced by the pail system. Approximately half of these houses are affected in this way.

These houses will go some way to meet the present waiting list of applicants, but in addition later provision will have to be made for such persons as are found on survey to be overcrowded or living under such conditions as merit the condemnation of their homes. The survey mentioned is being conducted to meet the demands of the Hobhouse Recommendations on Rural Housing. At the earliest opportunity the Authority appointed an architect to carry out this work and at the end of the year he had completed the retailed survey of two areas. The method of procedure and the form of presentation of this work to the Housing Committee deserves comment on the clarity of detail finally submitted.

Final classification of houses at :—

Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Total	Overcrowding	
					No. of Houses overcrowded	Units overcrowded
ADDERLEY						
6	18	25	2	51	3	3½
NORTON-IN-HALES						
15	65	25	18	123	3	2

Apart from the work of the Council, private builders have submitted plans and have started work on new houses at Childs Ercall (1) and Stoke (1), while plans have been approved for Bellaport (6) and Hodnet (2).

One cottage has been reconditioned under the Rural Workers Act. For permission to build or recondition properties, builders have to satisfy the Local Authority as to the work intended and licences for such are granted from the Central Office.

Maintenance on Council Property has been carried out by direct labour and while the supply of material has been limited, such as has been available has been put to good use. In the case of private dwellings the Sanitary Inspector reports that landlords have done what they could.

In the twelve months no houses have been condemned.

A small number of caravan dwellers have been reported but their presence has not given rise to any complaints.

SECTION E

Meat and other Foods

The District continues to be served from the central abbatoir at Whitchurch and such meat is subject to re-examination locally by the Sanitary Inspector on request by the retailer. Other foods are in the same way subject to local inspection and the following are details of such unsound food found :—

Tinned Meat	51 lbs.	Oatmeal and Flour	146 lbs.
Tinned Fish	5 lbs.	Cakes	32 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	45 lbs.	Rice	36 lbs.
Tinned Soup	4 lbs.	Suet	2¾ lbs.
Milk (Tinned)	185 tins	Mustard	3 lbs.
Shell Eggs	52 dozen	Margarine	4¼ lbs.
Dried Eggs	2 tins	Oranges	133 lbs.
Pickles	6 lbs.	Dried Fruit	94½ lbs.
Jam	5 lbs.		

MEALS IN SCHOOLS. — The provision of these has now become general and many schools have kitchens and canteens attached to the main premises. During the course of the year plans have been submitted and passed for the adaptation of prefabricated structures for this purpose.

MILK AND DAIRIES

The Sanitary Inspector reports :—

Number of Cowkeepers Wholesale Producers	417
„ „ Cowsheds	991
„ „ Dairies (Factories)	2
„ „ Accredited Milk Producers	109
„ „ Tuberculin Tested Herds	8
„ „ Retail Purveyors	25
„ „ Pasteurised Retailers	1

The Sanitary Inspector reports that no new shippons have been built but some reconstruction has been carried out on both cow-houses and dairies. A number of farmers have satisfied the County Authority and secured licences to produce milk of designated quality. Your Officer states that he is satisfied with the standard generally prevailing. At Pipe Gate the District has a creamery modern and up-to-date in its conduct.

During the year meetings were held at Wellington at which the County Medical Officer attended and at these the general supervision of milk production was discussed.

FACTORIES. — The three factories in the District are concerned with foods :—Pipe Gate Creamery, Cheese Factory at Tern Hill, and Macaroni Factory at Cheswardine. The sanitary conditions are satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES. — The 7 bakehouses are situated in the Parishes of Hodnet, Cheswardine, Hinstock, Woore and Sutton. Improvements in sanitary conditions have been made in two cases.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over infectious and allied diseases

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases together with the number of deaths from such :—

Disease	*Cases Notified* 1945	1944	*Deaths*
Scarlet Fever	7	12	—
Whooping Cough	3	15	—
Measles	75	50	—
Pneumonia	4	6	—
Diphtheria	1	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN THE VARIOUS AGE GROUPS

Years	*Scarlet Fever*		*Whooping Cough*		*Measles*	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
0 ...	—	— ...	—	1 ...	—	1
1 ...	—	— ...	1	— ...	7	7
3 ...	—	— ...	—	— ...	4	9
5 ...	2	2 ...	—	1 ...	28	9
10 ...	1	1 ...	—	— ...	1	1
15 ...	1	— ...	—	— ...	4	2
25 ...	—	— ...	—	— ...	—	2
Totals	4	3 ...	1	2 ...	44	31

The one case of diphtheria occurred in an adult over 25 years.

Years	Pneumonia Male	Pneumonia Female	Dysentery Male	Dysentery Female
5	—	—	1	—
15	3	—	—	...
45	—	—	—	...
65	1	—	—	...

SCABIES. — Few cases have been reported and these have been able to be treated privately.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—The following is a summary of the return submitted to the Ministry of Health for the Year ending 31st December, 1945 :—

	Age under 5 years but over 1 year	*5 years and over but under 15 years*	*Total*
Number of children immunised	299	1251	1550
Number of children residing in District	699	1336	2035
Percentage protected ...	42.7	93.6	

During this period the Ministry of Health has made changes in the forms of returns to be rendered to them by the Local Authority. Now, two statements covering the two six-monthly periods of the year are required and; in addition, an annual return showing the number of children protected in relation to the total population of such is required. No account is now taken of percentage calculation and that given above is for local consideration only.

The County Authority continues the clinical control of this work and submits to the local office a card for each child treated. These cards, together with records of such as receive attention from local doctors, are filed and form the basis for the statistics and returns.

TUBERCULOSIS. — The number of notified cases on the Register on the 31st December, 1945, and the comparative figures for 1944 and 1943 are as follows :—

	Males		*Females*		*Total*
	Pulmonary	*Non-Pulmonary*	*Pulmonary*	*Non-Pulmonary*	
1945	10	25	8	20	63
1944	8	25	8	20	61
1943	10	24	8	20	62

NEW CASES

Pulmonary	*Non-Pulmonary*	*Total*
4	4	8

DEATH RATES

	Drayton	*England & Wales*
Death Rate from Pulmonary T.B. per 1000 population	.13	.47
Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary T.B. per 1000 population	.26	.1
Total Death Rate (all forms)	.39	.57

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1945

	New Cases				*Deaths*			
Age	*Respiratory*		*Non-Respiratory*		*Respiratory*		*Non-Respiratory*	
Group	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-5	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
5-15	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	2	2	1	3	—	1	1	1

There were 1 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary deaths.

CANCER.—The number of deaths from cancer in 1945 was 6 (5 males and 1 female).

	Drayton Rural	*England & Wales*
Death Rate per 1,000,000 living ...	792	1699

W. A. M. STEWART,

8th August, 1946. **Medical Officer of Health.**

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